1. (Previously Presented) A machine-implemented method for selecting a workflow, said method comprising the steps of:

a computer constructing a set of possible workflows meeting a workflow specification having a predetermined input and a required output, using components having defined inputs and outputs;

said computer calculating an exposure cost measure for each of the possible workflows in the set of possible workflows, said exposure cost measure being based upon, in part, details of critical information that is temporarily stored between processing steps within each of said possible workflows; and

said computer selecting a target workflow from the constructed set of possible workflows for which the exposure cost measure is calculated to be a minimum.

2. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising the step of said computer storing a library of components from which possible workflows can be constructed.

3. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising the step of said computer defining said exposure cost measure to be representative of an amount of information that a constructed workflow exposes.

4. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising the step of said computer defining said exposure cost measure to be representative of a duration for which a constructed workflow exposes information.

5. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising the step of said computer defining said exposure cost measure to be representative of an amount of information that a constructed workflow exposes, and a duration for which information is exposed.

6. (Previously Presented) A computer system for selecting a workflow comprising computer software recorded on a computer-readable medium, said software comprising instructions executable by said computer system, said instructions causing said computer system to:

construct a set of possible workflows meeting a workflow specification having a predetermined input and a required output, using components having defined inputs and outputs;

calculate an exposure cost measure for each of the possible workflows in the set of possible workflows, said exposure cost measure being based upon, in part, details of critical information that is temporarily stored between processing steps within each of said possible workflows; and

select a target workflow from the constructed set of possible workflows for which the predetermined exposure cost measure is calculated to be a minimum.

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7. (Previously Presented) A computer program product for selecting a workflow comprising computer software recorded on a computer-readable medium for performing the steps of:

constructing a set of possible workflows meeting a workflow specification having a predetermined input and a required output, using components having defined inputs and outputs;

calculating an exposure cost measure for each of the possible workflows in the set of possible workflows, said exposure cost measure being based upon, in part, details of critical information that is temporarily stored between processing steps within each of said possible workflows; and

selecting a target workflow from the constructed set of possible workflows for which the exposure cost measure is calculated to be a minimum.

8. (Previously Presented) The computer system in claim 6, said instructions causing said computer system to store a library of components from which possible workflows can be constructed.

9. (Previously Presented) The computer system in claim 6, said instructions causing said computer system to define said exposure cost measure to be representative of an amount of information that a constructed workflow exposes.

10. (Previously Presented) The computer system in claim 6, said instructions causing said computer system to define said exposure cost measure to be representative of a duration for which a constructed workflow exposes information.

11. (Previously Presented) The computer system in claim 6, said instructions causing said computer system to define said exposure cost measure to be representative of an amount of information that a constructed workflow exposes, and a duration for which information is exposed.

12. (Previously Presented) The computer program product in claim 7, further comprising the step of storing a library of components from which possible workflows can be constructed.

13. (Previously Presented) The computer program product in claim 7, further comprising the step of defining said exposure cost measure to be representative of an amount of information that a constructed workflow exposes.

14. (Previously Presented) The computer program product in claim 7, further comprising the step of defining said exposure cost measure to be representative of a duration for which a constructed workflow exposes information.

15. (Previously Presented) The computer program product in claim 7, further comprising the step of defining said exposure cost measure to be representative of an amount of information that a constructed workflow exposes, and a duration for which information is exposed.